Happy New Year everyone!

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Marvel

12th Jan. 1996
No 215 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

7

Computer games to be won!

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Great stories! Colouring fun! New year quiz!

ALL AB

• Notice Board! •

Peep! Peep! Happy New Year, everybody! There's lots for you to enjoy in this splendid issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends! In our first great story, A treat for Toby, the little tram engine gets 'pushy'! Thomas solves a mystery in Fancy that! And Terence shows Percy that speed isn't everything in Saving sand! There's terrific colouring-in for you to do, and Number Gallery 9 to collect. Plus, don't forget to try our wizard Quiz of the year! You could win a wonderful prize! Have fun! Peep! Peep!

Splendid competition!

There's a fantastic set of computer games to be won in this issue. See page 18 for more details!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Chairman: Jim Galton; Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editor: Cynthia O'Neill; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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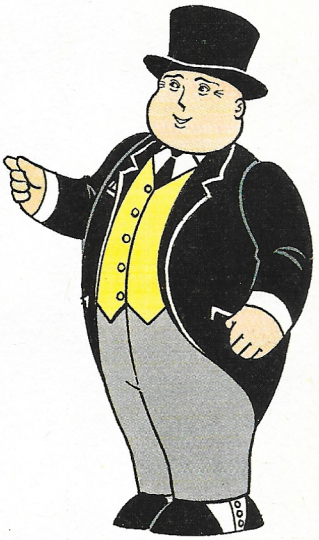
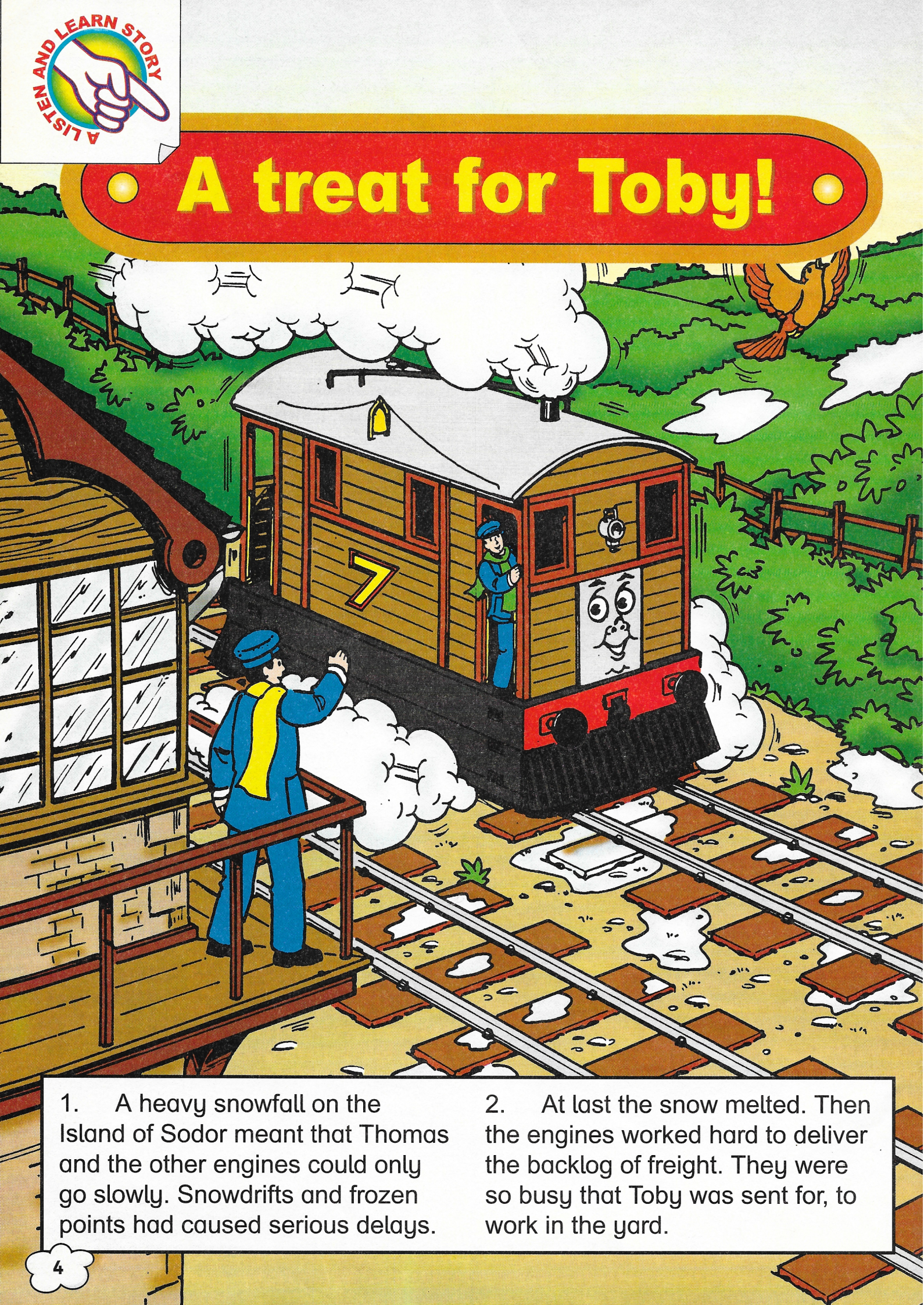


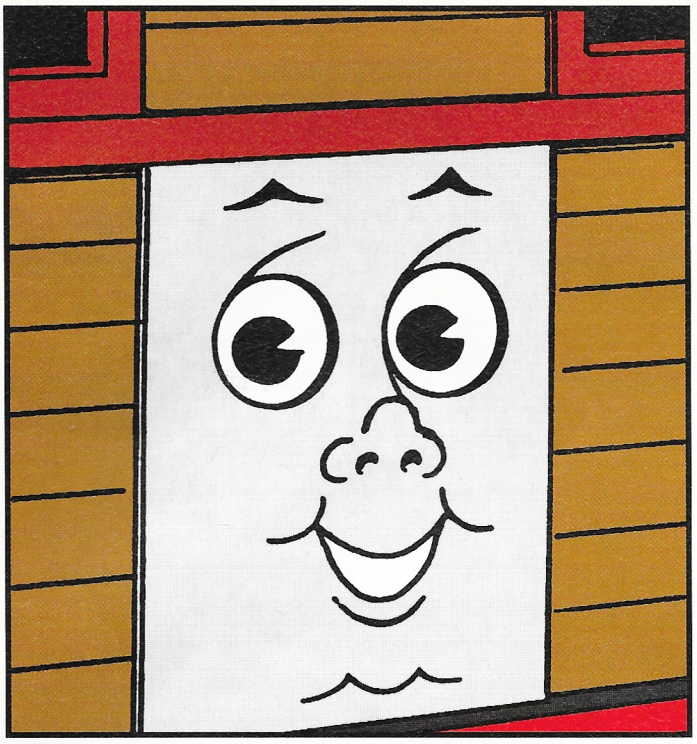
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

A treat for Toby!

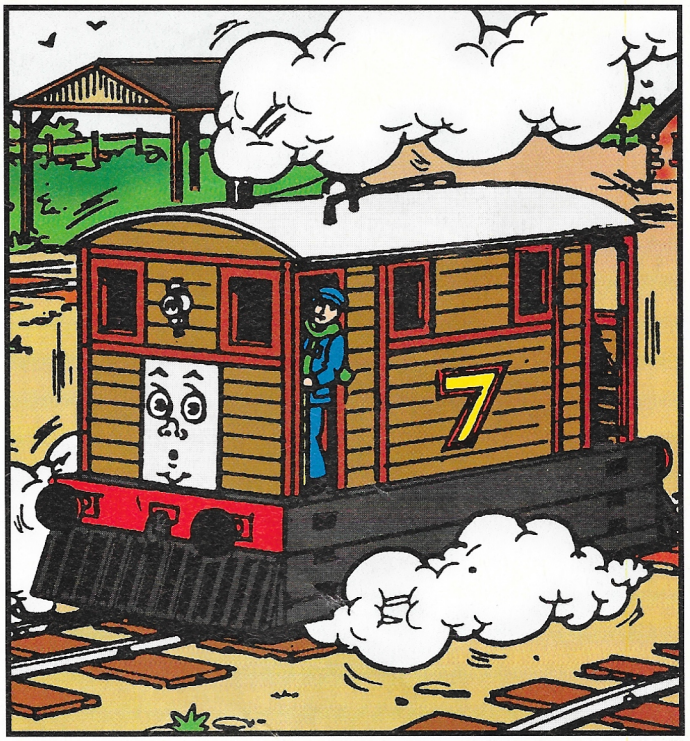


1. A heavy snowfall on the Island of Sodor meant that Thomas and the other engines could only go slowly. Snowdrifts and frozen points had caused serious delays.

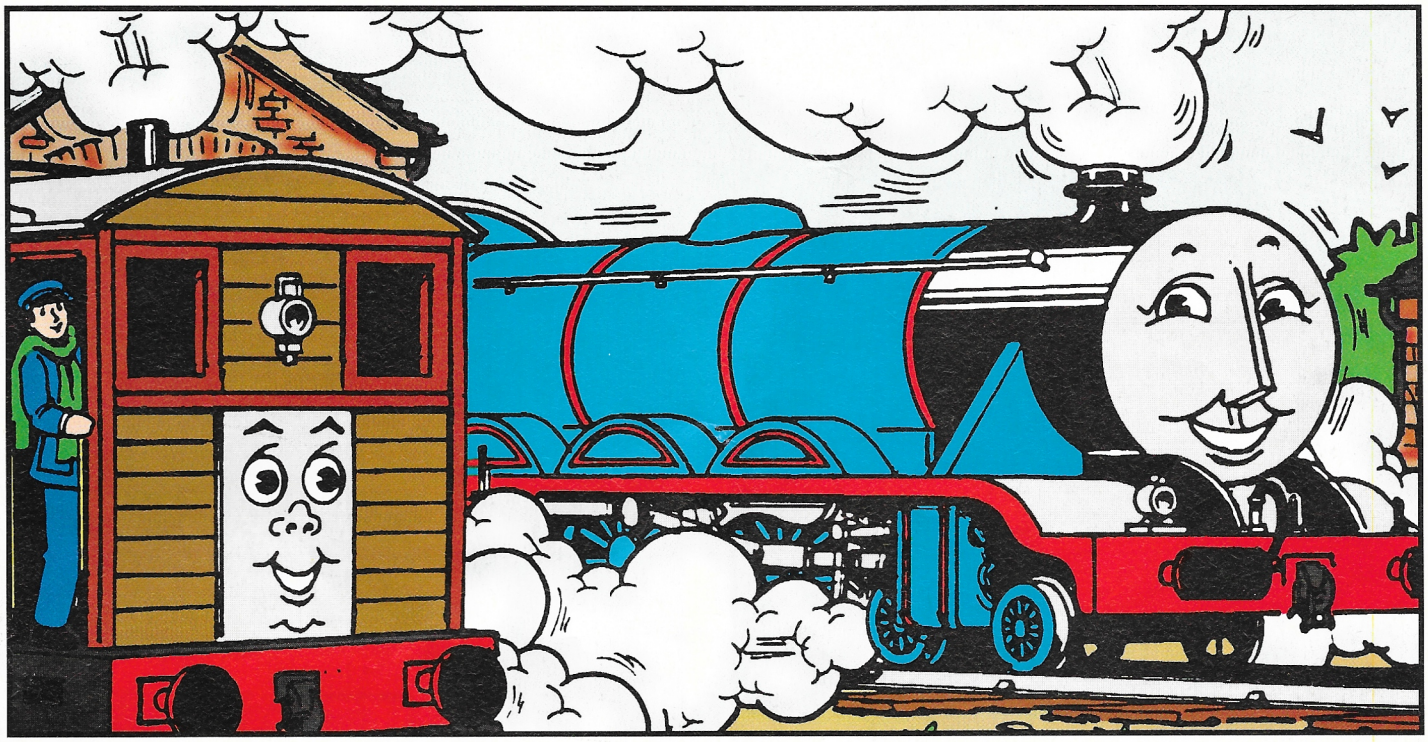
2. At last the snow melted. Then the engines worked hard to deliver the backlog of freight. They were so busy that Toby was sent for, to work in the yard.



3. "I don't mind a bit," smiled the tram engine as he arrived. "Shunting trucks in the yard is more exciting than working on my quarry line. It's so quiet!"

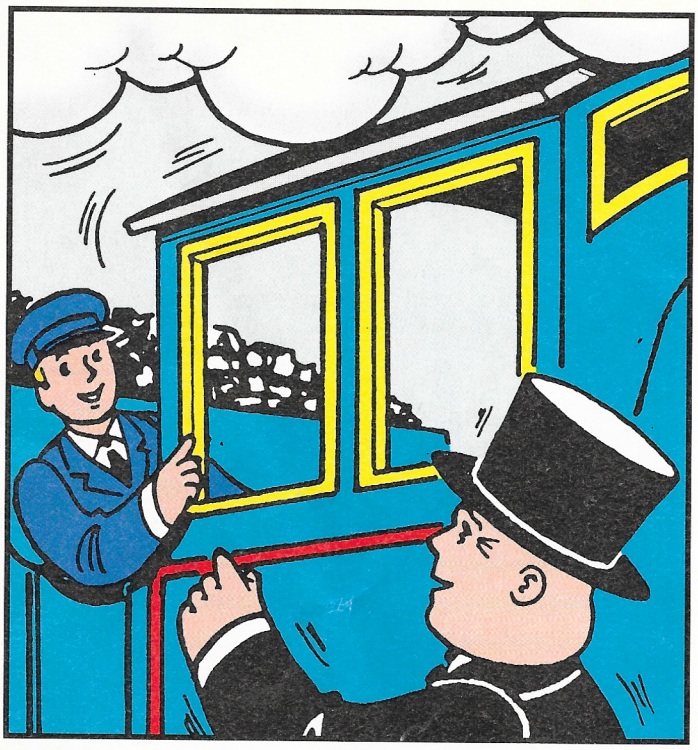


4. But there was no other engine about. "It's much quieter here than I thought," said Toby. The other engines had already left with their goods trains.

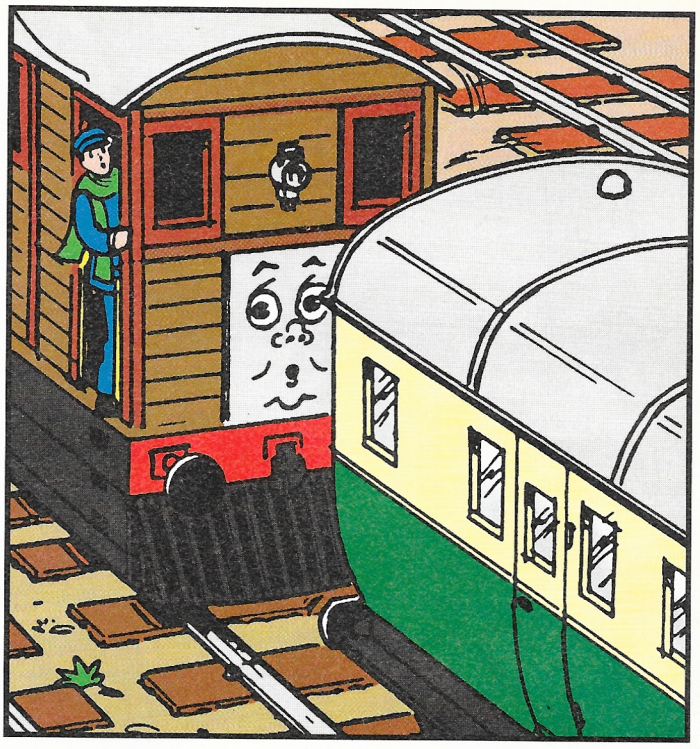


5. Suddenly, Toby heard a loud puff-puff-puffing. Who should appear from the shed but Gordon, the big Express engine. Toby thought he looked really smart.

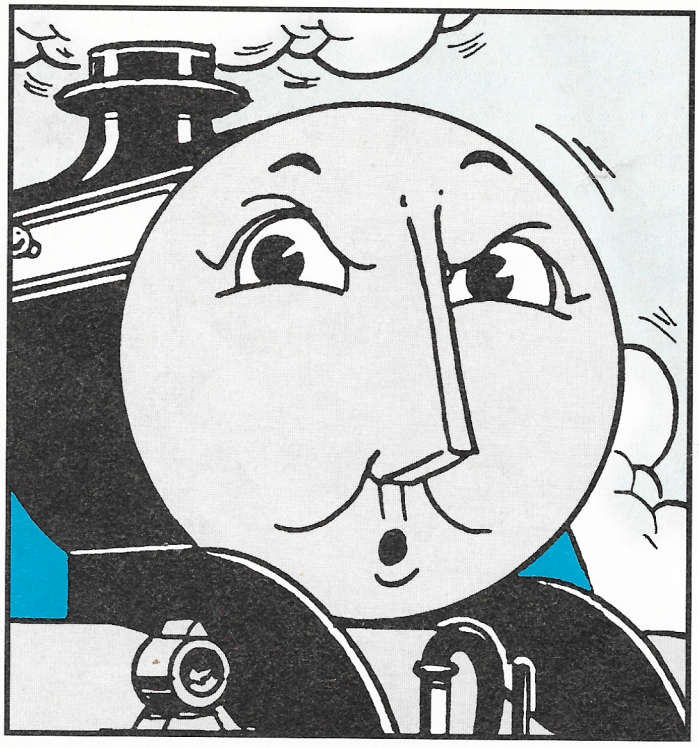
6. "Taking the Express must be the most exciting and important job on the railway," thought Toby. Gordon pulled up nearby, hissing great clouds of steam.



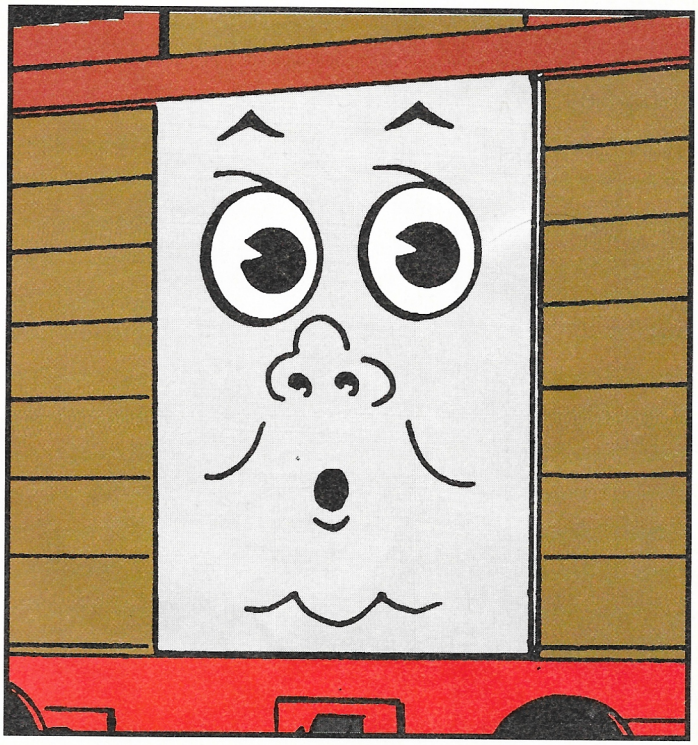
7. "Where are my coaches?" he called, impatiently. Next moment, the Fat Controller hurried over. "Toby will have to fetch them today," he told Gordon's driver.



8. Toby could hardly believe his good luck. "I'll do my best, sir!" he said, proudly. Then Toby rolled behind the coaches and moved them slowly towards Gordon.



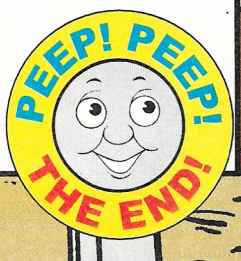
9. "Hurry!" snorted Gordon. So Toby went faster. But he pushed the coaches too hard. They bumped against Gordon, then rocked to and fro to give Toby a jolt, too.



10. "Sorry, Gordon!" he called. "Clumsy! It's time I was going!" said Gordon. He whistled and got underway. "Just imagine pulling the Express," sighed Toby.

11. As Gordon began to tow the coaches, Toby felt himself being pulled across the yard with them. "Help!" he cried. The back of the last Express coach had jammed on to Toby's front coupling. "It must have got stuck when I bumped the coaches!" gasped Toby. He tried to stop but Gordon was so strong, he just pulled harder.

12. Gordon did not know Toby was trapped behind the coaches. Toby kept whistling to alert Gordon's driver. The engines went right across the yard before Gordon finally braked. "Sorry, Toby!" he said. "Don't be," smiled Toby. "I can't pull the Express but I did help to push it. That's the most exciting thing I've ever done!"



Count and colour!

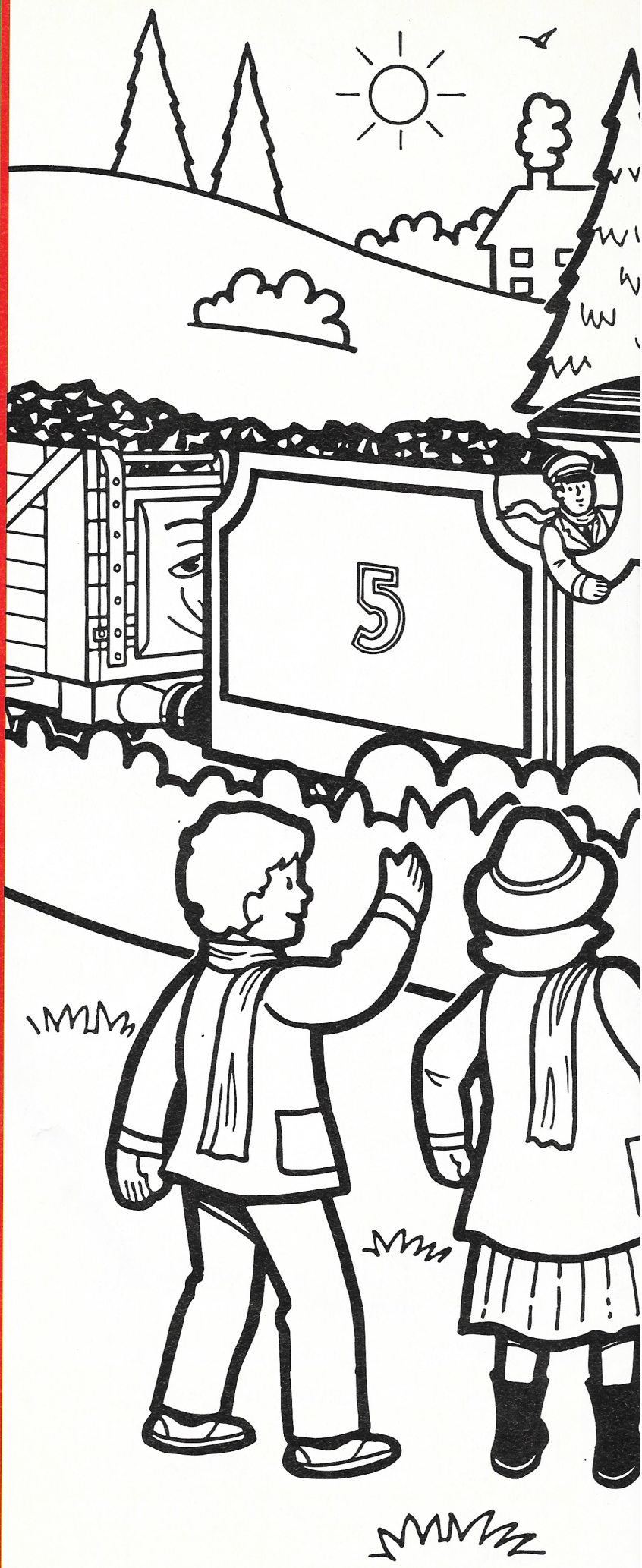
It's New Year's Day on the Island of Sodor! Which engine can you see enjoying the winter sun? That's right, it's James! Now colour in this lovely picture.

How many hats can you see?

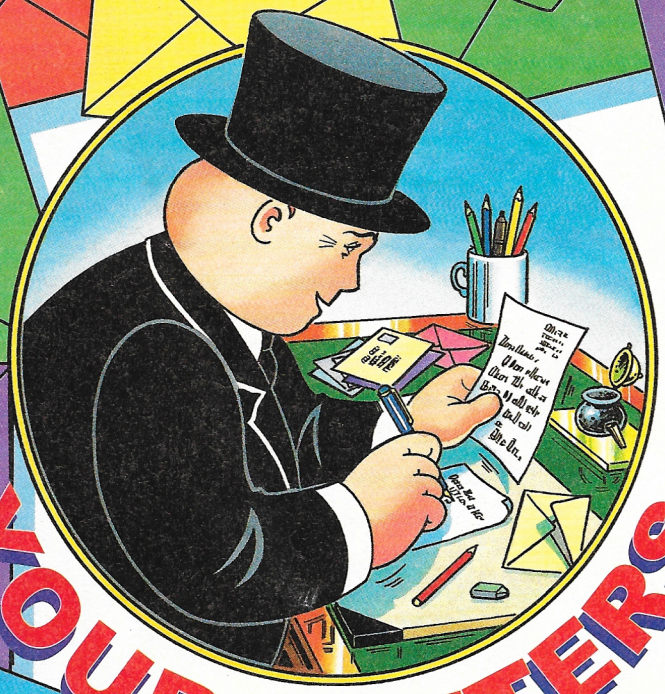
5

How many houses can you count?

3



HAROLD



YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

Dear Fat Controller,
For my birthday I had a Thomas cake because he is my favourite engine. What sort of cake does Thomas have on his birthday?
Love from Connor Clark, aged two and a half

In fact, Connor, Thomas's favourite treat is some lovely fresh coal from the Mainland, but the railway staff are very fond of jam sponge!

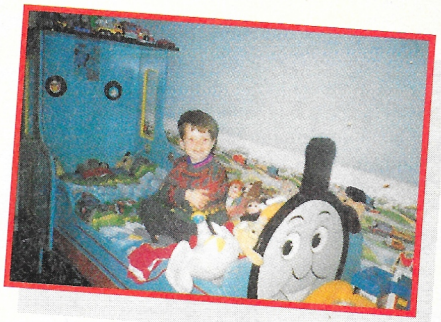
Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me how many engines there are altogether?
Love from Adam Storer, aged four

At the moment, there are 24 engines working busily on the Island of Sodor railway. That includes the mountain and traction engines.

Dear Fat Controller,
I would like to know why the City of Truro engine hasn't got a face like all the other engines.
Love from Adam Davies, aged four

The City of Truro was only a visitor to the Island, although he was a special one! Most of our engine visitors do not have faces, because they do not work for the Fat Controller's railway.

Photo of the fortnight



This is a picture of me in my Thomas bed, which I have had since I was 3. I like playing trains in bed.
Love from Matthew Curry, aged 6

BIRTHDAYS

A special birthday hello goes out to

Jennifer Petzing, aged 3,
Joshua Kelly, aged 5 and
Drew Mason, aged 6

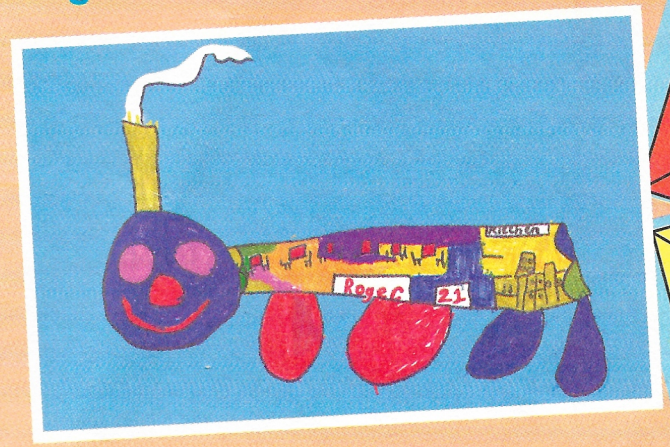
Drawing Board!

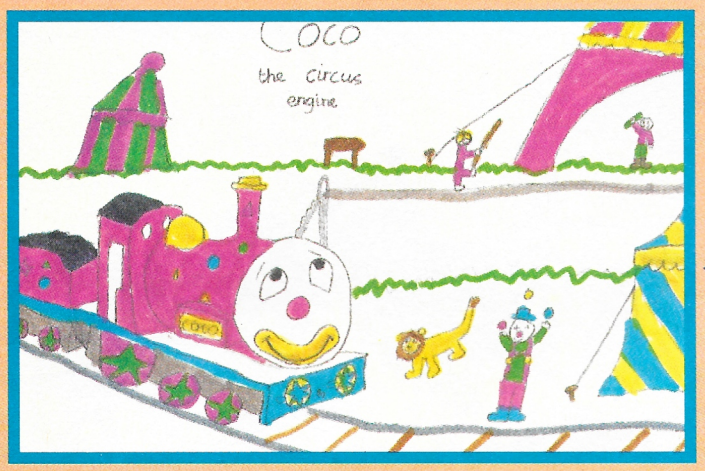
Here are some of the winners from our competition to draw new engines for the Fat Controller's railway!

Jennifer Reynolds, aged 5, drew this bright yellow engine, called Damien!

Peep! Peep! This smiley engine is Gregory, and he was drawn by Thomas Jacob-Ewles, aged 5.

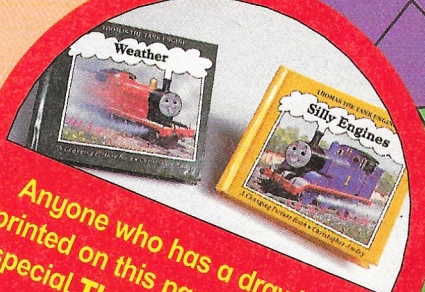
This splendid picture shows Roger the Restaurant Engine, by Richie Wise, aged 5. YUMMY!





Joseph Smita, aged 7, drew Coco the Circus Engine. It looks like Coco loves to clown around!

Send your drawings of Thomas and his friends to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

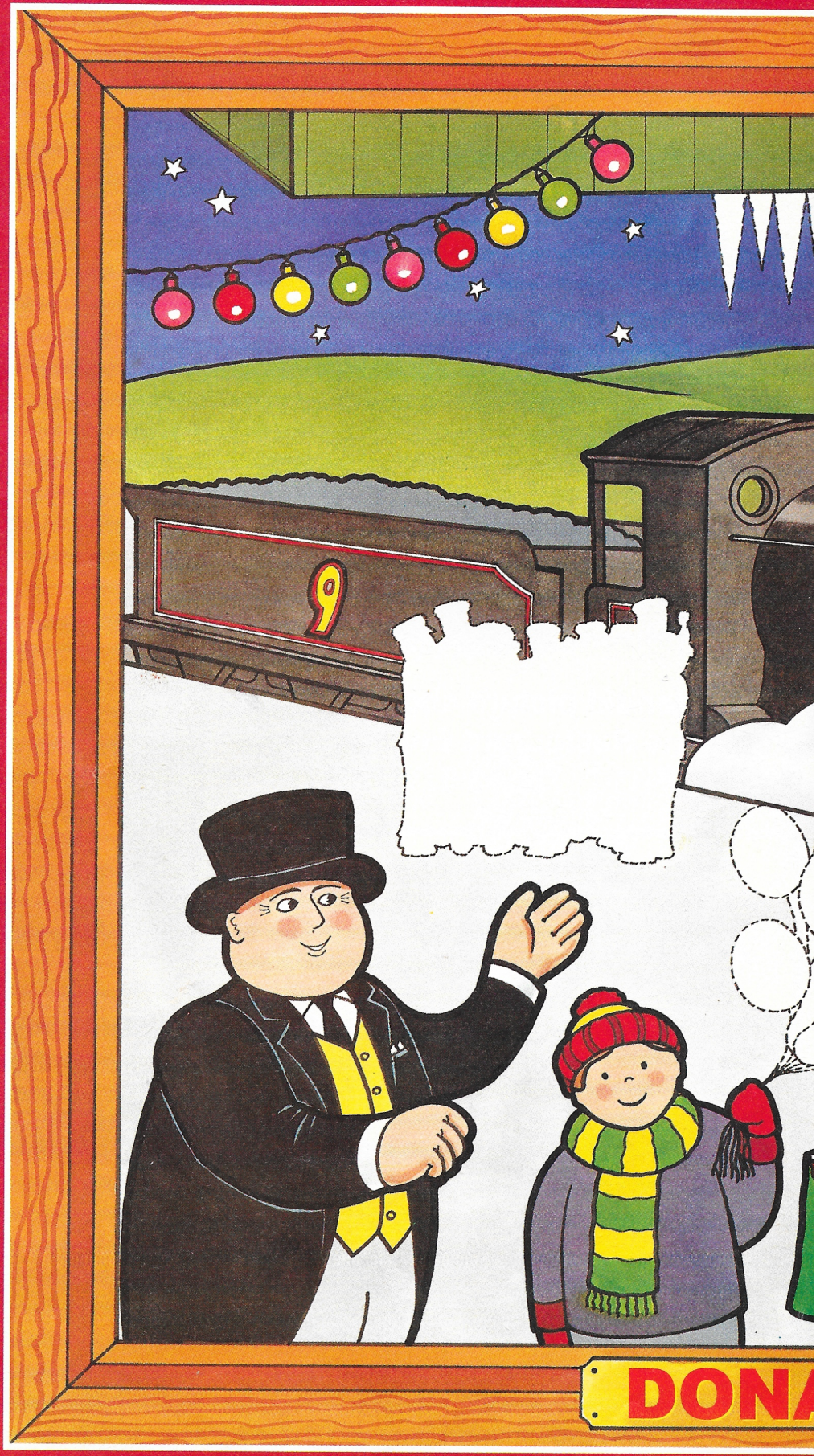


Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

Number G

Say hello to Donald, one of the Scottish twins! If you saved your cut-outs from the last issue, stick them onto the page to complete the picture. Then cut out the pictures on the right and save them for Number Gallery 10, in the next issue!

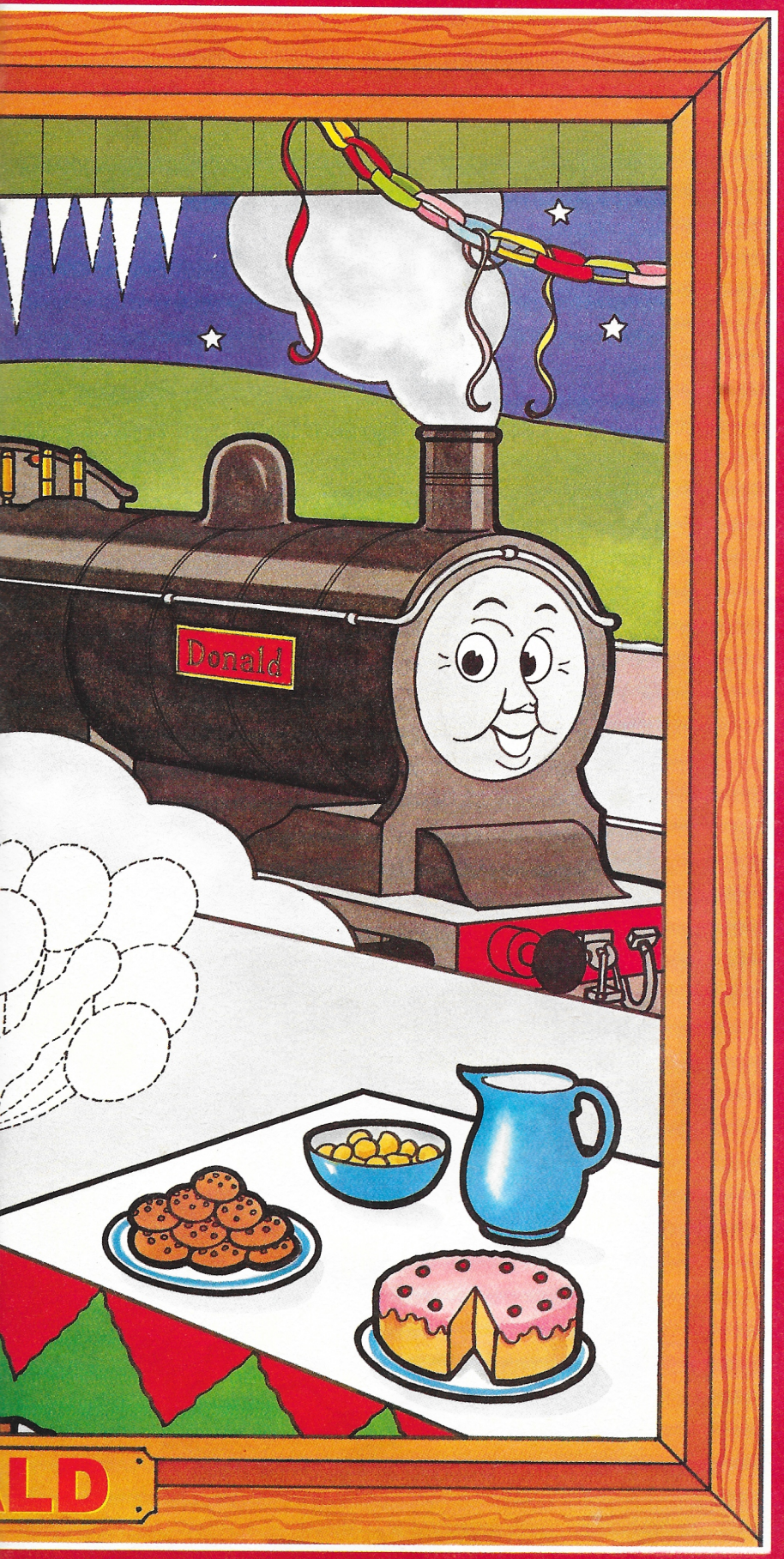


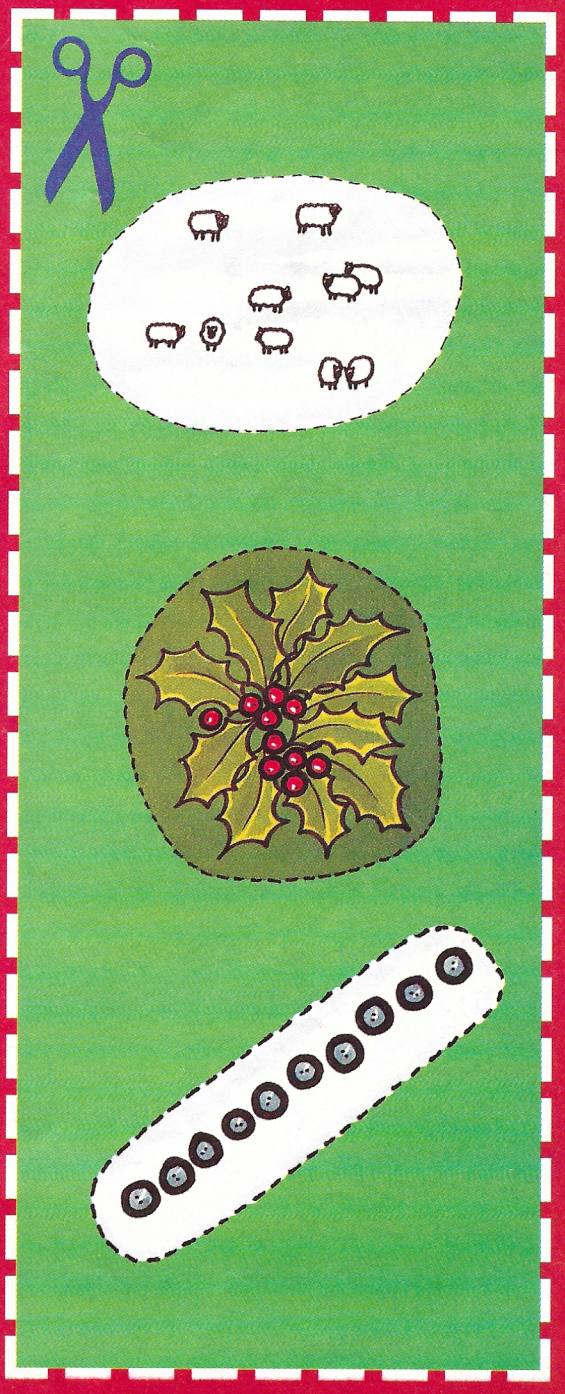
It's New Years Eve -
let's celebrate!
There's lemonade
and lots of cake!
Everyone's smiling
and full of cheer,
So to all of our
readers ...
A SPLENDID NEW YEAR!

How many cookies are there on the plate?

What colour gloves is the little boy wearing?

Gallery





READ AND PLAY STORY

Fancy that!

The vicar had arranged a New Year's Eve fancy-dress party at the church hall. Lots of the children would be going, including Stephen and Bridget, who had come to stay with the Fat Controller. Lady Hatt had made each of her grandchildren a special costume to wear.

In the afternoon, thick snow lay everywhere. Thomas was coupled to Annie and Clarabel. Then he rolled into the Main Station, ready to go and pick up all the children from stations along his branch line.

"Wait for us, Thomas!" called Stephen, eagerly.

Bridget carried both their costumes in a big round bag. The guard put it in his van.

"We'll keep it in here, out of the way," he said.

More snow fell as Thomas set off. Later, he puffed around a bend and the guard's van door suddenly swung open. It had not been closed properly. Thomas pulled up while the guard shut it. At last, Thomas arrived at the station by the church hall.

The vicar waited to greet the children. Stephen and Bridget were so excited they forgot to fetch their bag.

Soon afterwards, Thomas left again. The snow was still falling. By the track, he saw a huge snowball.

"Smoke and fire! Who made that?" gasped Thomas.

At the next station, there was an urgent message.

"The vicar has just rung me. Stephen and Bridget have left their costumes in the guard's van!" called the stationmaster.

Thomas's guard went to get the costumes from his van, but they had gone! He was very puzzled. But Thomas had an idea. He told his guard, who quickly went back to look at the giant snowball. He brushed some snow off it. To his amazement, it was Stephen and Bridget's bag.

He carried the bag back to Thomas. "You were right," he told the little tank engine.

As this was the last run of the day, later on Thomas was able to deliver the costumes. He made it just in time for the party!

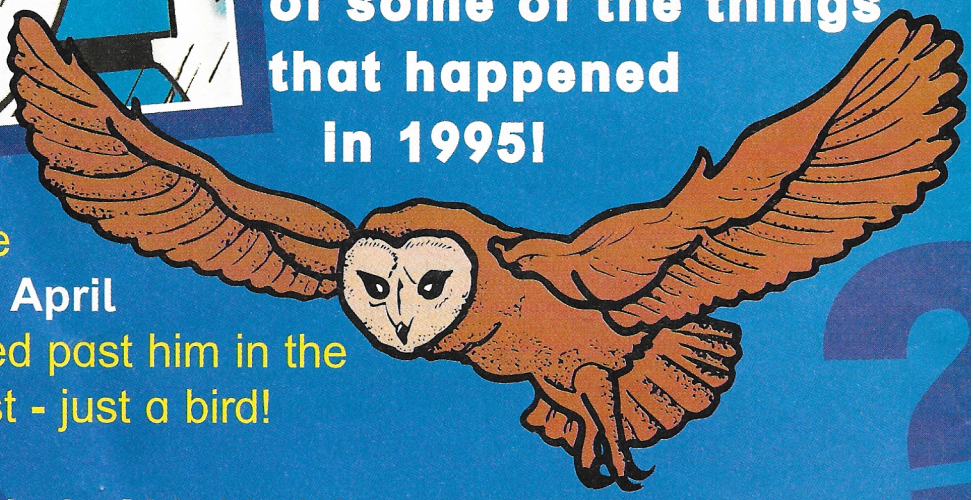
"My costume is a snowman suit!" Stephen told Thomas's driver.

"And I'm going to be a giant snowball!" added Bridget.

"I just **snow** they'll enjoy themselves now," joked Thomas. "Happy New Year!"

Quiz of t

Thomas and the other engines had lots of adventures last year, and you've been able to read all about them in your favourite comic! Now here's a fun quiz to remind you of some of the things that happened in 1995!



1 Thomas got a scare one stormy night in **April** when something swooped past him in the dark! But it wasn't a ghost - just a bird!

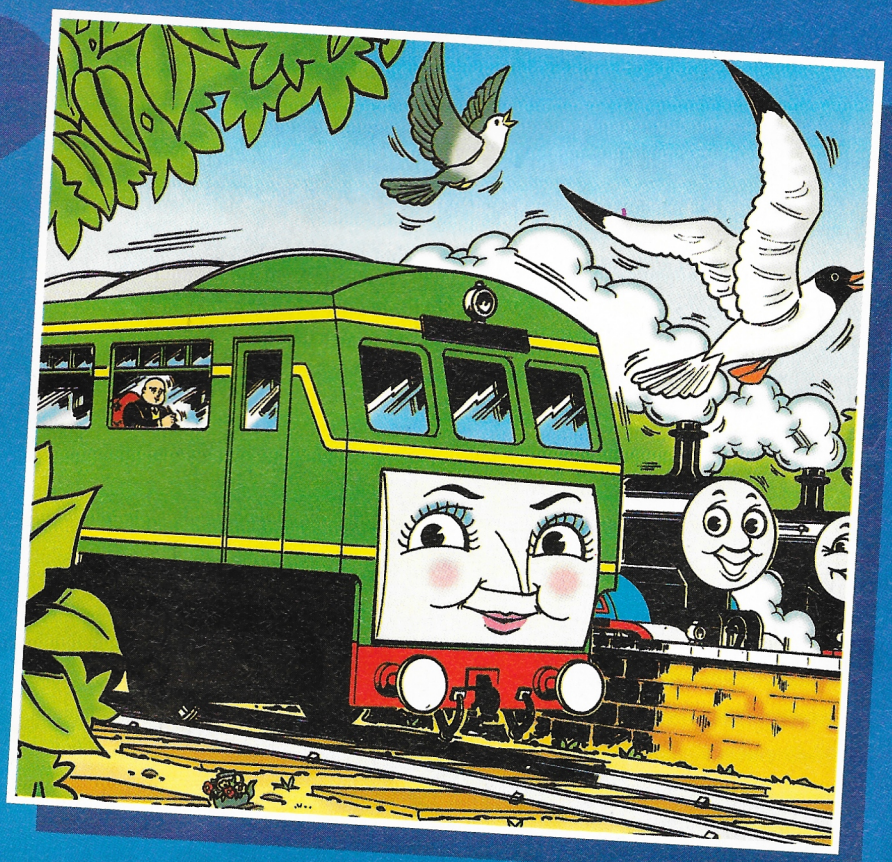
Here is the bird. What kind of bird is it?

a. an owl, or **b.** a penguin?

2 Diesel is usually a real trouble-maker. But in November he was a hero. He knocked over a truck of milk churns to save Toby from some dangerous flames!

How many milk churns can you count in this picture?

he year!

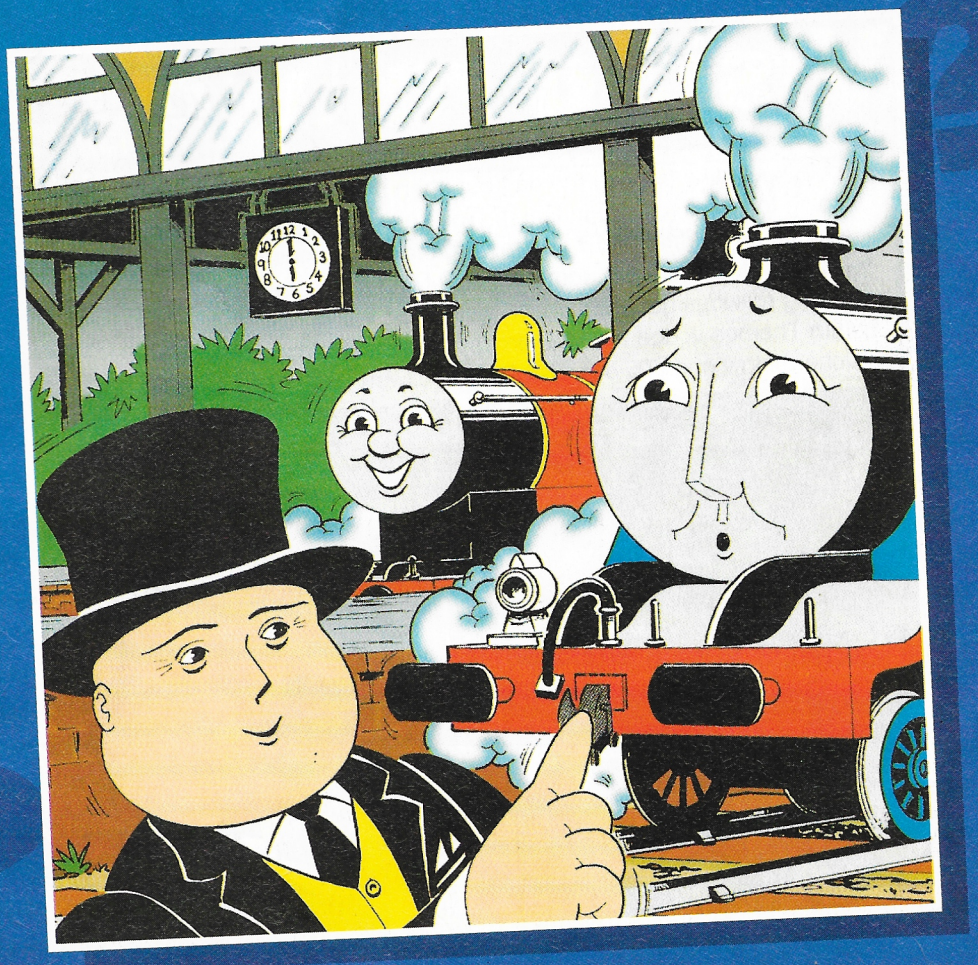


3 In June, the Fat Controller decided to take an engine out of service! The other engines were very upset. But then the Fat Controller explained that he just needed a place to do his work for a few days, while his office was decorated!

Which engine was very proud about her special job? Here's a picture to help you remember!

4 Gordon the Express loves to travel really fast! But in September, a tree fell on the tracks and blocked them. Gordon was so late, he nearly became known as the Slow Coach!

The Fat Controller is telling Gordon that safety is more important than speed! What time does the clock say?



Let's play!

Here's a fantastic chance to win a bumper set of computer games, all featuring Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends. Each set includes a Pinball game, a super electronic Paintbox and a terrific games collection! We've teamed up with Alternative Software to offer this amazing prize to six lucky winners.

To enter the competition, all you have to do is tell us the answers to the four quiz questions on pages 16 and 17. Then send the answers, along with your name, age and address, to:

Marvel/Bumper Games competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX. Make sure your entries reach us by 17th January 1995. **And don't forget to let us know whether you want the games in PC or AMIGA format.**

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Limited, and Alternative Software Limited. All prizes will be distributed via the manufacturer. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged via the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

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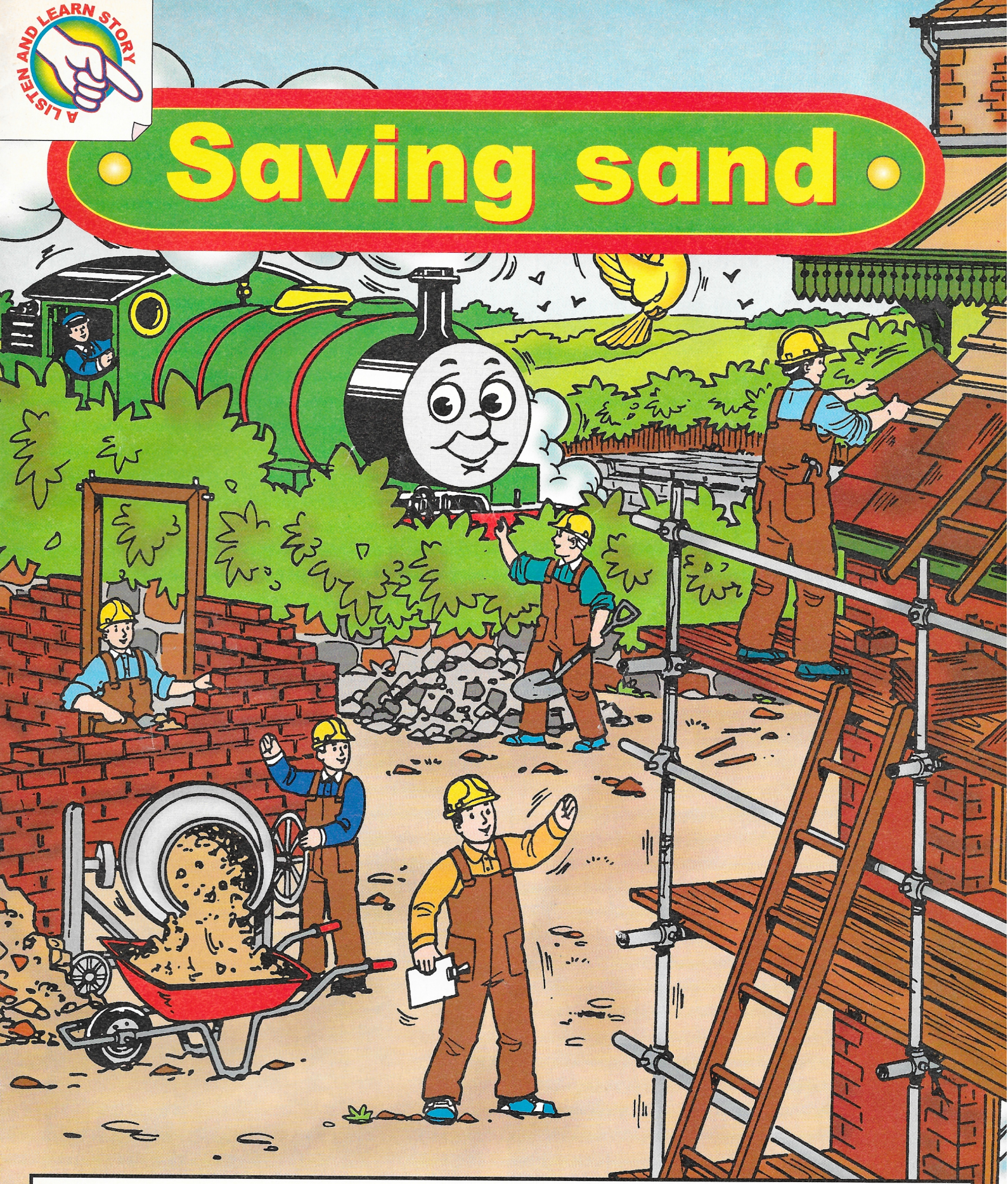
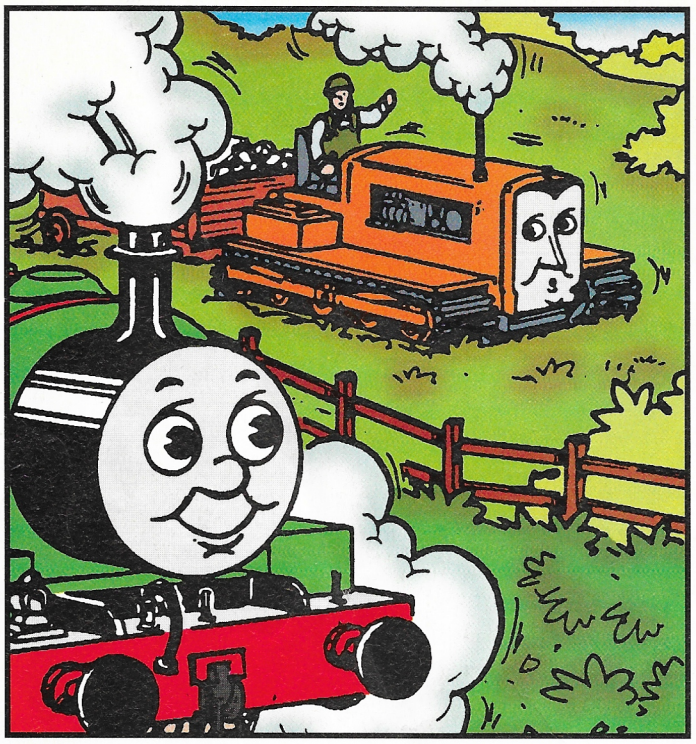


Saving sand

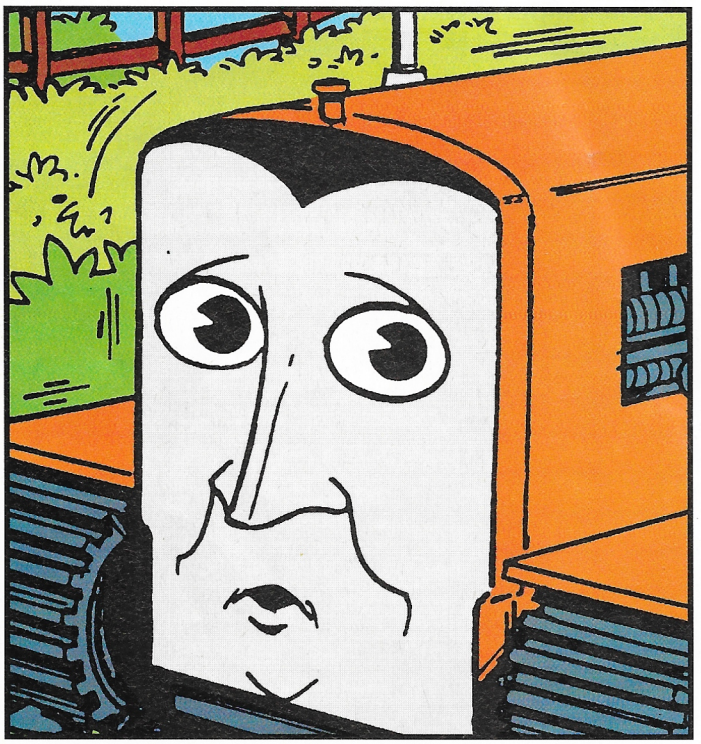
1. Percy was delivering bricks, tiles and timber to a station. They were to be used by workers who were building houses nearby. Soon Percy's trucks were unloaded.

2. "We want some more sand and cement too," one man told Percy's driver. "We'll get those next," he replied. Percy was surprised the builders needed so many materials.

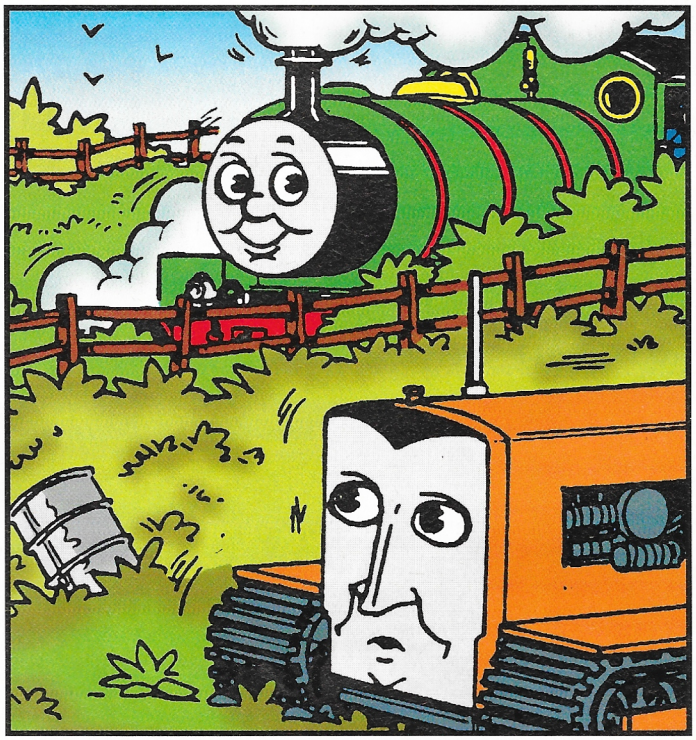


3. Percy set off. He had not gone far when he had to wait for a signal to change. Nearby, Terence the Tractor was working in a field. "Hello, slowcoach," teased Percy.

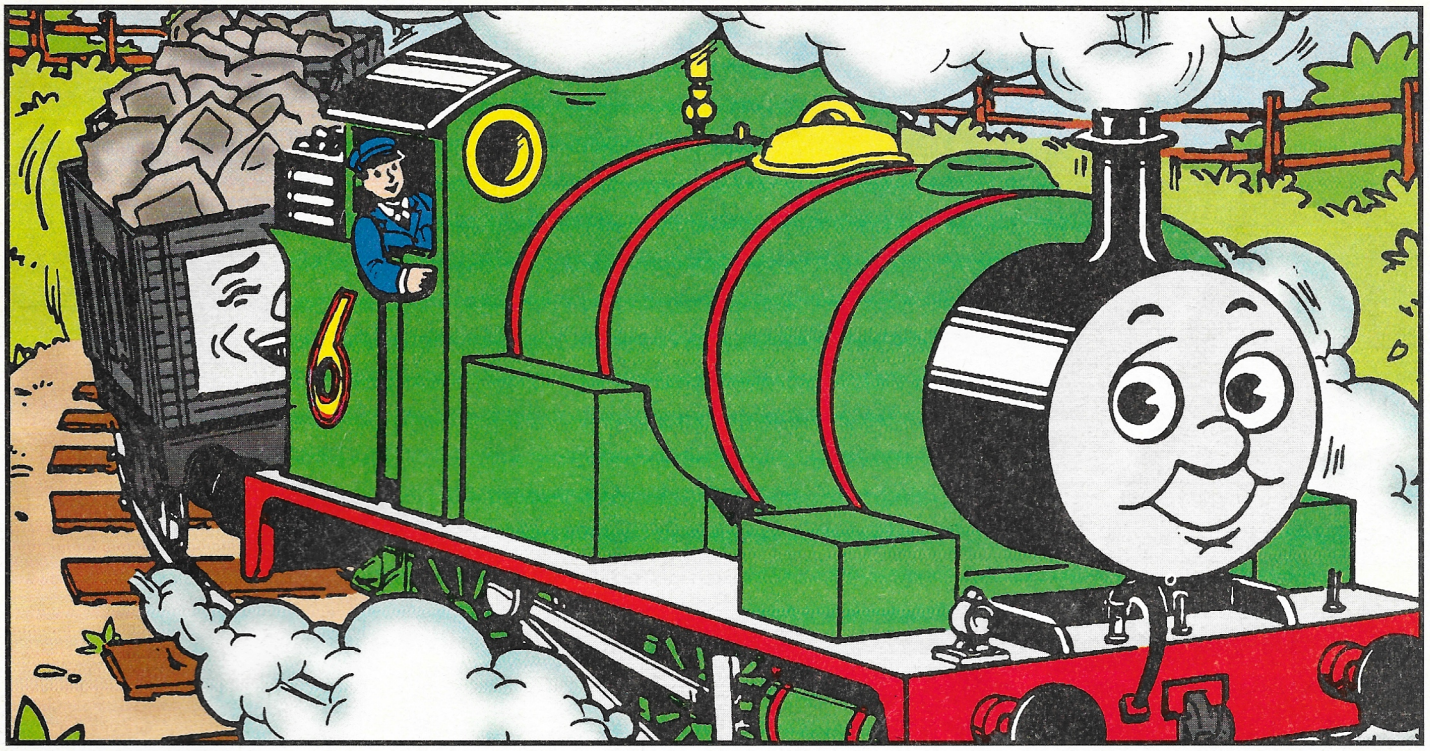
4. "I'm off to collect urgent goods for the building site," he added. "That sounds exciting!" said Terence, as he chugged steadily along on his caterpillar treads.



5. "I wish I could carry important freight like you, Percy," sighed Terence. "Pah! It would never get there in time," teased Percy cheekily. "You're too slow!"

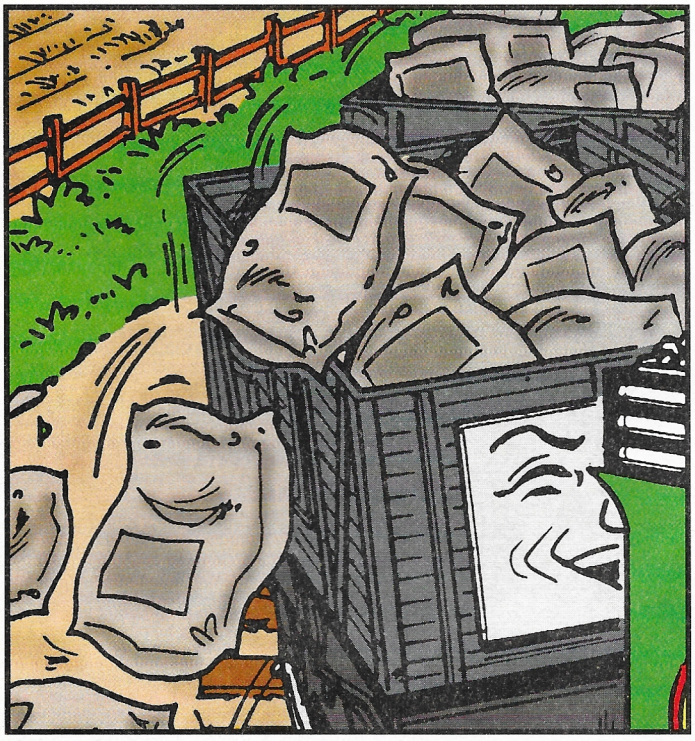


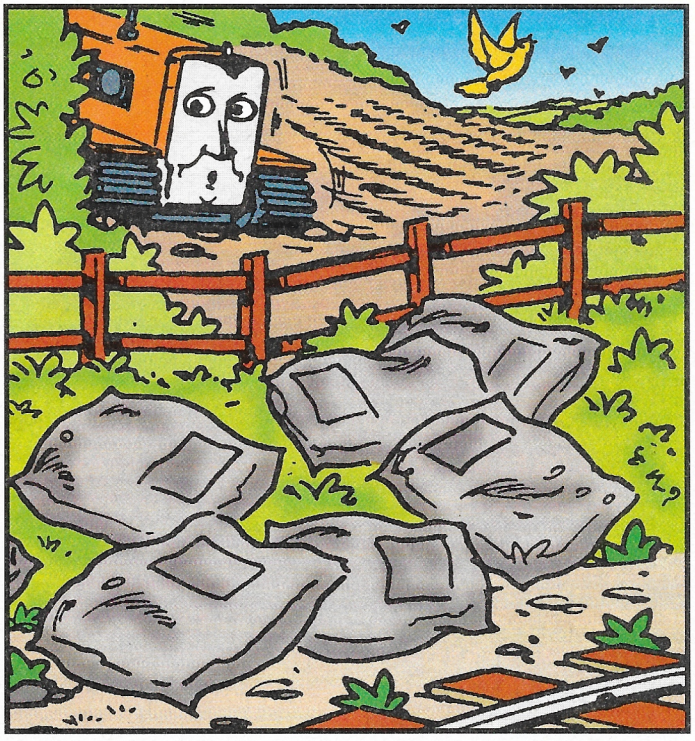
6. At last, the signal changed. "Goodbye," said Percy. "Don't go too slowly, or you might fall asleep!" Then he hurried on and soon collected the supplies.



7. Later, as he returned, Percy's trucks were being naughty. They did not like working so hard. They rocked and bumped about naughtily. "Stop that!" cried Percy crossly.

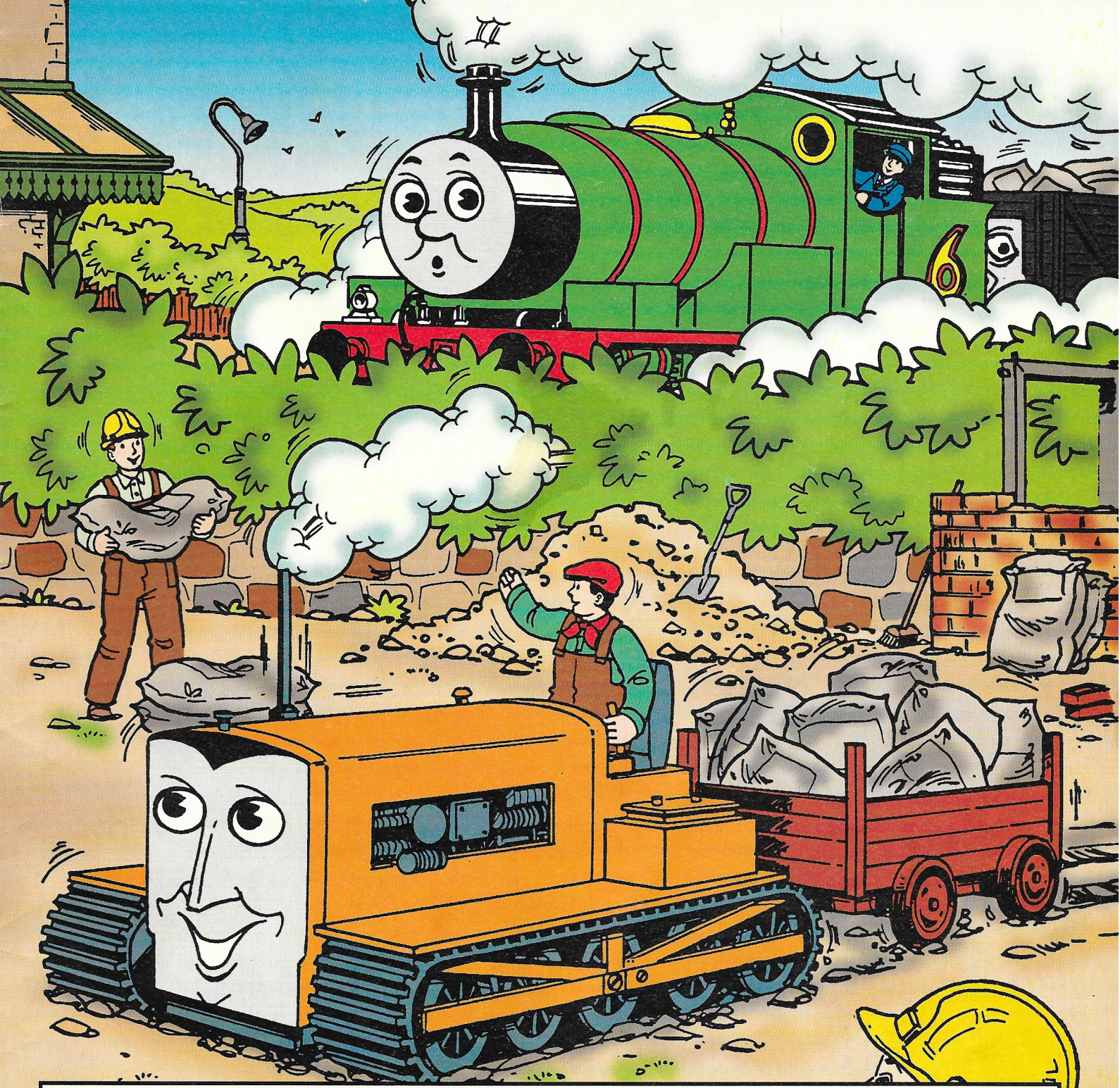
8. "We won't!" sang the trucks. Percy raced around a bend to give them a fright. The trucks went so quickly, they thought their wheels would come right off the rails.





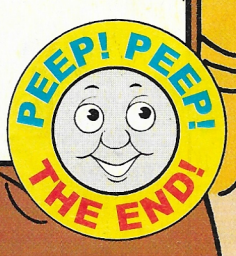
9. The trucks didn't dare to look. "Slow down!" they cried, nervously. Suddenly, some bags of sand fell from one truck. But none of them saw it because their eyes were shut.

10. Percy did not know either. The trucks promised to behave so Percy steamed along steadily. The bags lay by the track. Luckily, Terence was ploughing a field nearby.



11. Only Terence had seen what had happened. Meanwhile, Percy arrived at the station by the building site. "We've brought everything you wanted," his driver told the builders. "Some sand is missing," one man called as Percy's trucks were unloaded. Percy and his driver were puzzled. Next moment, Terence came chugging closer.

12. He was pulling a trailer with all the missing bags of sand on the back of it. "It's lucky these didn't burst open when you dropped them, Percy," said Terence. Percy felt very silly. He was sorry for teasing Terence. "You see?" smiled the tractor. "I'm not too slow to carry urgent freight, after all!" "I was too **fast**!" replied Percy.



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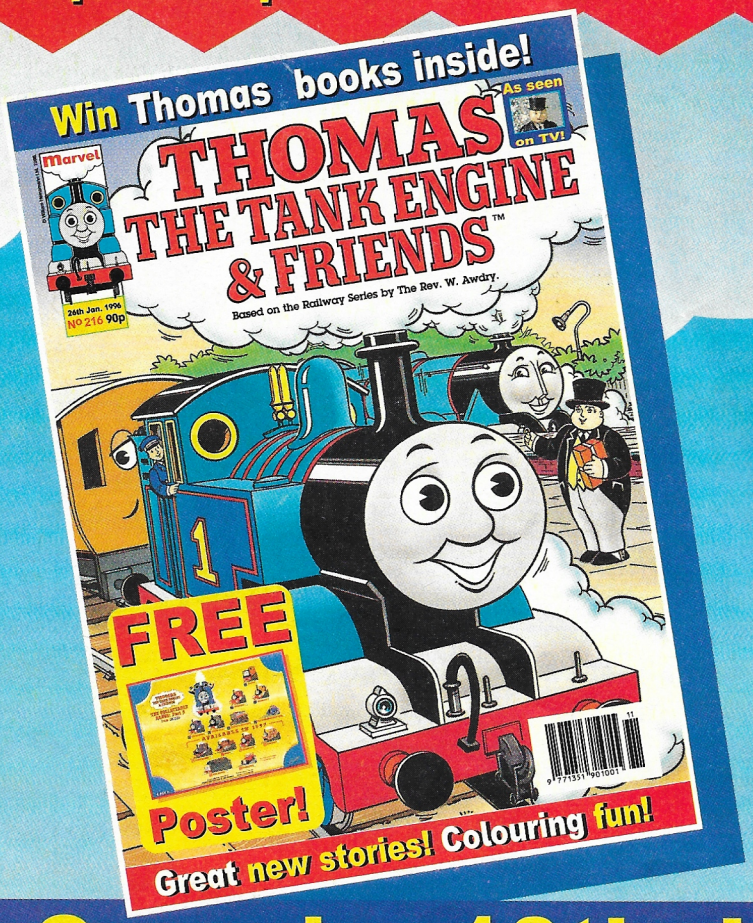

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